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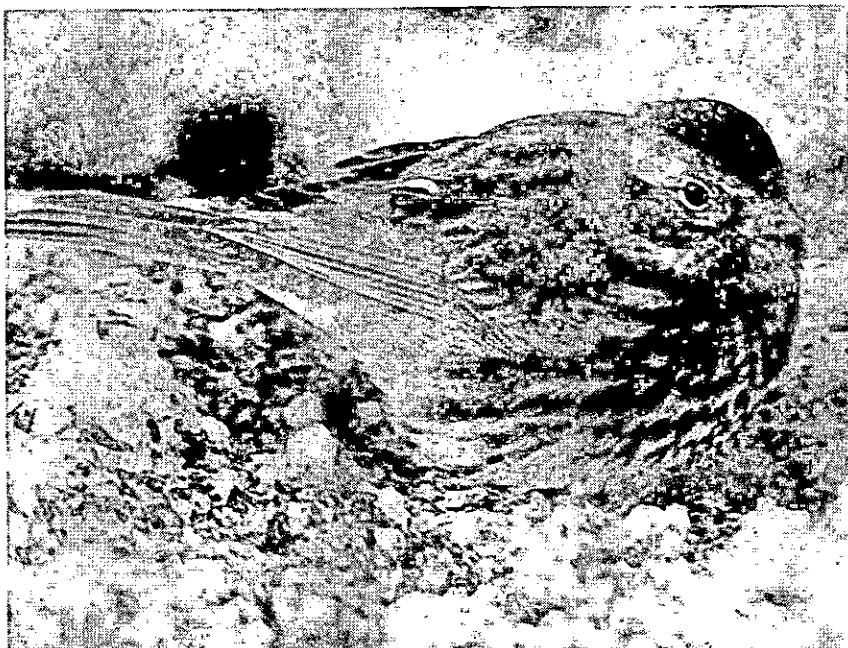
The Kentucky Warbler

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Vol.76

FEBRUARY 2000

No. 1



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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editor..... B.R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.
Bowling Green, 42101

Editorial Advisory Board Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee.....Lee McNeely
P.O. Box463, Burlington, KY 41005

THE COVER

Thanks go to Kathy Caminiti for this photograph of a Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) taken in Boone County in 1994.

THE FALL MIGRATION - 1999

Fred M. Busroe

Weather conditions for the fall of 1999 were similar throughout the state: very warm and drought to extreme drought.

The fall migration was undoubtedly altered due to the dry conditions. Despite the drought, the fall season was very interesting and several rare and unusual species of birds were reported. Several potential first state records were observed. These include: a Green Violet-eared at Taylor's Mill, Kenton County; Black-capped Chickadees near Ashland, Boyd County; and a Brown-headed Nuthatch at Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County. Other unusual species were: Pacific Loon, Red Knot, Yellow Rail, King Rail and Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: SBC = Somerset Bird Club; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; AWMA = Adair WMA, Boone County; Ano = Ano Strip Mines, Pulaski County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon cos.; Barn = Barren County; Bar = Barren River Lake, Barren County; Bel = Bellevue, Campbell County; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson counties; BSF = Cotton Patch and Bear Creek Trails in Big South Fork National Recreation Area, McCreary County; Blo = Blood River Embayment of Kentucky Lake, Calloway County; BPP = Brown Power Plant, Mercer County; BBSP = Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County; Bul = Bullittsburg, Boone County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; CKWMA = Central Kentucky WMA; Co = Cooley's Pond, Wayne County; Cra = Craig's Creek, Gallatin County; Cree = Creelsboro, Russell County; Dav = Daviess County; Day = Dayton, Campbell County; Din = Dinsmore Woods, Boone County; Dix = Dix Dam, Garrard/Mercer cos.; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; ECU = Eastern Kentucky University, Madison County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County; Fish = Fishing Creek, Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County; Fre = Frederick's Landing, Campbell County; Ful = Fulton County; Hart = Hart County; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; Hts = Highland Heights, Campbell County; Hog = Hogue, Pulaski County; Jef = Jefferson County; JMF = Jefferson County Memorial Forest; Jon = Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; KyDam = Kentucky Dam, Marshall/Livingston cos.; KyLake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Livingston/Marshall cos.; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; LCum = Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Lak = Laketon, Carlisle County; LWC = Louisville Water Company, Jefferson County; Lru = Larue County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkin's County; Mark = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; McEl = McElroy Lake, Warren County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; MCP = Middle Creek Park, Boone County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mtz = Mount Zion, Pulaski County; PWMA = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg/Ohio counties; Par = TVA Paradise Steam Plant ash pond, Muhlenberg County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Pul = Pulaski County; RH = Rabbit Hash, Boone County; Simp = Simpson County; SWMA = Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; Thu = Thurston's Pond, Wayne County; Twn = Twin Lakes, Pulaski County; Warn = Warren County; Wol = Wolf Creek Dam, Russell County; Yah = Yahoo Falls, McCreary County.

PACIFIC LOON - 1 on November 19 at KyDam (DR).

Common Loon - 14 on October 27 at Bar (LD); 1 on November 13 at RH (LMc); 2 on November 7 at Falls (DO); 1 on November 13 at LCum (RD); 5 on November 28 at Ky Dam (Hap, CP).

Horned Grebe - 14 on October 27 at Bar (LD); 40 on November 7 at Falls (DO), 11 on November 7 on LCum (RD); 16 on November 28 at KyDam (Hap, CP).

Eared Grebe - 1 was present November 12-24 at KyDam (DR, MB).

American White Pelican - 57 on August 15 at L#9 (BY).

Double-crested Cormorant - 10 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR); 9 on September 18 at EBP (LMc); 15 on September 16 and 25 on October 21 at Mel (FR); 36 on October 3 at Falls (DO); 1 on October 6 and November 4 at LPew (JWH); approx. 1,000 on October 11 above Falls (MB); 12 on November 6 at Mark (LMc); 6 on November 7 at Dix (NE, VE).

American Bittern - 1 on October 17 at SWMA (DO).

Great Egret - 4 on August 2 at BPP (RD); 6 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD); 3 on August 21 at Falls (DO); 9 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR); 2 on October 11 at Falls (MB); 1 on November 16 at Cree (RD).

Little Blue Heron - 1 immature on August 2 at BPP (RD); 2 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD).

Cattle Egret - 200+ on September 5 above Bark (MB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron - 1 on August 21 at Cra (LMc); 1 on November 13 at AJJ (FR).

Glossy Ibis - 1 tentatively identified as Glossy was seen in Simpson Co. September 17-19 (DR); 3 *Plegadis* sp. were seen on August 30 at MCFH (FB, MH, LK).

Black Vulture - 3 on August 21 at Falls (DO); 30 on September 18 at EBP (LMc); 32 on November 11 at MCFH (RD).

Turkey Vulture - 40+ at roost on August 16 in Hart (MS).

Tundra Swan - 2 adults on November 15 at Bar (DR).

Mute Swan - 1 adult was at Smi on September 27 - 28 (DR).

Gadwall - 6 on October 3 and 79 on November 21 at Falls (DO); 3 on November 6 and 1 on November 11 at Pet (LMc); 1 at Mel on November 7 (DR); 27 on November 13 in Pul (RD).

American Wigeon - 8 on October 17 at SWMA (DO); 27 on November 15 at Coe (RD).

Blue-winged Teal - 15 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR); 40 on October 2 in Lru (DO); 13 on September 11 at Fish (RD).

Northern Shoveler - 1 male on August 11 in Warn and 1 on August 15 at L#9 (DR); 2 on September 18 at LWC (DO).

Northern Pintail - 1 at Pet from October 6 to November 11 (LMc), 4 on October 16 at PWMA (DO); 1 on November 7 at Dix (NE, VE).

Green-winged Teal - 3 on September 18 at LWC (DO); 1 September 21 at CEL (LMc); 6 on November 6 at Cra (LMc); 8 on November 11 at Pet (LMc); 72 on November 20 at LWC (DO); 14 on November 27 at Coe (RD).

Canvasback - 1 on November 11 at MCFH (RD); 2 on November 20 at Falls (DO).

Ring-necked Duck - 1 male at Par on August 9 (DR).

Lesser Scaup - 6 on August 14 at Bark (DR); 15 on November 6 at Pet (LMc); 2 on November 7 at Falls (DO).

Surf Scoter - 3 on November 7 at Falls (DO); 7 on November 7 on Ohio River in Jef (DR).

Black Scoter - 1 each observed November 7 on Ohio River in Gallatin and Jef (DR).

Bufflehead - 5 on November 7 and 12 on November 21 at Falls (DO); 13 on November 27 at RH (LMc); 19 on November 26 at LCum (RD).

Common Merganser - 1 present through the period at Smi (DR, RD).

Ruddy Duck - 1 female on August 2-6 at Meng Pond, Warn (DR, LD); 3 on October 22 at CEL (LMc); 1 on October 27 and 48 on November 19 at LPew (JWH); 35 on November 11 at KyDam (Hap, CP).

Osprey - 1 on September 7 at LCum (RD).

Bald Eagle - 1 on August 18 at MCFH (RD).

Northern Harrier - 1 on September 18 in Pul (RD); 1 on October 5 in Simpson Co. (LD); 7 on October 16 at PWMA (DO); 1 on November 20 at Ano (RD).

Cooper's Hawk - 1 on August 12 in Hart 1 on August 16 in Barn, and 1 on October 4 in Jef (MS); 2 on August 21 at Falls (DO); 1 on November 30 at Ano (RD).

Northern Goshawk - 1 immature on November 7 at Mel (DR).

Red-tailed Hawk - 1 light morph calurus race on October 1 in Warn and a light morph Harlan's race in Muhl on November 28 (DR).

Rough-legged Hawk - 1 in Pul on November 28 and 1 in Wayne Co. on November 30 (RD).

Golden Eagle - 1 on October 22 at PWMA and 1 on November 26 at Par (DR).

Merlin - 1 on September 2 at Par and 1 on October 30 in Warn (DR); 1 on September 23 in Warn (JE, DE).

Peregrine Falcon - 1 on October 11 at Falls (MB).

YELLOW RAIL - 1 on October 22 at PWMA (DR).

KING RAIL - 2 on October 17 at SWMA (DR) were unusually late fall migrants.

Virginia Rail - 2 on October 17 at SWMA (DO, DR) and 1 on October 22 at Par (DR).

Sora - 1 to 2 observed from September 8 - 27 at Twn (RD); 2 on October 17 at SWMA (DO).

Common Moorhen - 1 was found dead, Wiswell Road in western Calloway Co. on October 13 (CM). The specimen is at Murray State University.

American Coot - A high number of 129 on October 12 at LPew (JWH); 130 on October 27 at Bar (LD); 250+ on November 7 at Dix (NE, VE).

Sandhill Crane - 4000 - 5000 over Bar on November 19 (DR) was the largest flight ever recorded in Kentucky.

American Golden-Plover - 5 on September 25 at Falls (DO).

Semipalmated Plover - 3 on August 5 at Par (MB); 10 on August 8 at Par (MB); 2 on August 14 at Falls (DO); 1 on several dates in early September at AJJ (FR); 3 on September 11 at Fish (RD).

American Avocet - 2 on August 9 at Par (DR); 1 on September 11 at Blo (DR, Hap); 1 on September 18 in western Daviess Co. (MT); 2 on September 22 at Smi (DR).

Greater Yellowlegs - 6 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR); 1 on October 30 at MCFH (RD).

Lesser Yellowlegs - 3 on August 5 and 8 at Par (MB), 12 on August 20 and 14 on August 30 at Blo (Hap); 1 on August 23 at Coe (RD); 10 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR).

Solitary Sandpiper - 6 on August 6, 2 on August 30 and 6 on September 4 at AJJ (FR).

Spotted Sandpiper - 1 on August 5 and 2 on August 8 at Par (MB); 10 on August 7 at Falls (DO); 3 on September 19 at Fish (RD).

Upland Sandpiper - 1 on August 2 and 11 in Warn (DR).

Red Knot - 1 on August 30 (Hap), September 4 (DR), and September 5 (MB) at Blo.

Sanderling - 1 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, RD); 2 on September 15 at Fish (RD); 34 on September 28 at Ky Bend in Fulton Co. (DR) is a record high count for the state.

Semipalmated Sandpiper - Approx. 30 on August 5 and 50 on August 8 at Par (MB); 5 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR).

Western Sandpiper - 1 at Jon and 2 at Par on September 5 (MB); 4 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR).

Least Sandpiper - Approx. 30 on August 5 and 40 on August 8 at Par (MB); 3 to 6 present at AJJ from August 6 to September 11 (FR); 18 on August 25 at Thu (RD); 20 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR); 23 on October 16 at Par (DO); 9 on November 28 at KyDam (Hap, CP).

Pectoral Sandpiper - 3 on August 7 at Falls (DO); 105 on August 13 and 117 on August 30 at Blo (Hap); 8 on October 30 at MCFH (RD).

Dunlin - 1 on October 16 at PWMA (DO); 11 on November 28 at KyDam (Hap, CP).

White-rumped Sandpiper - 1 on August 21 at Lak (DR, Hap); 7 on September 4 at Jon (DR, Hap).

Stilt Sandpiper - 6 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD); 6 on August 30 at Blo (Hap); 3 on October 2 in Lru (DO).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - 3 on September 5 at Par (MB); 3 on September 11 at Blo (Hap, DR).

Short-billed Dowitcher - 1 on August 8 at Par (MB); 4 on August 20 and 1 on August 30 at Blo (Hap).

American Woodcock - 3 on September 27 at Bu1 (LMc).

Laughing Gull - 1 adult on August 14 at Smi (DR).

Franklin's Gull - 1 at Smi from September 27 to October 8 (DR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 to 2 adults at Bark from September 27 to November 3 (DR).

Caspian Tern - 4 on August 14 at Falls (DO); 10 to 15 on September 5 at Smi (MB); 2 on September 16 at Mel (FR).

Common Tern - 1 on September 4 at Jon (DR); 2 on October 9 at Smi (RD); 1 on November 7 at Dix (NE, VE).

Forster's Tern - 49 on September 5 at Jon (MB); 1 on October 9 at Smi (RD); 1 on November 28 at KyDam (Hap, CP).

Least Tern - 20 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD); 1 adult feeding 2 immatures on August 15 at Hic (BY); 30+ on September 5 at Smi (MB).

EURASIAN-COLLARED DOVE - 3 in Hic on August 13 (Hap, RD).

Eastern Screech-Owl - 1 on August 12 and 16 in Hart (MS); 3 on September 18 at JMF (DO); 1 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 1 on October 31 at MtZ (RD).

Great Horned Owl - 1 to 3 during the period in Hart (MS).

Barred Owl - 2 on August 20 at Blo (Hap); 1 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

Short-eared Owl - 1 on November 28 at Ano (RD).

Northern Saw-whet Owl - 1 adult was captured, banded and released on November 12 at CKWMA (MM); 4 birds were captured, banded and released on November 15 - 16 at CKWMA (MM, BL).

Common Nighthawk - 46 on August 30 in Pul and 35 on September 9 at MtZ (RD).

Chuck-will's-widow - 1 on August 12 at MtZ (RD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 15 on September 4 at Fre and at Bel (FR); 30 at a feeder in Trigg County on September 5, 25+ on September 13 in Warn, with 1 lingering until November 1-3 in Warn (DR);

GREEN VIOLETEAR - 1 present from August 25-27 at Taylor's Mill, Kenton County.

Many observers (photographed, videotaped). Currently under review by KBRC.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 on October 2 at Wol (DO).

Red-cockaded Woodpecker - 2 on December 7 in Whitley Co.(DR).

Acadian Flycatcher - 2 on August 6 at MtZ (RD).

Loggerhead Shrike - 3 on August 8 at Hog (RD); 1 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD).

Tree Swallow - 350 on August 21 at Cra (LMc).

Bank Swallow - Approx. 550 on August 13 in Ful (Hap, RD).

White-eyed Vireo - 5 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc).

Yellow-throated Vireo - 5 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc).

Blue-headed Vireo - 5 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 1 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

Warbling Vireo - A high number of 4 on September 11 in Bel (FR).

Philadelphia Vireo - 1 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc).

Fish Crow - 100+ on August 21 at Lak (DR).

Horned Lark - 3 on November 30 in Jef (DO).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - 2 were present at a Boyd Co. feeder through most of November (SS, RD, MM, DR *et al.*). Documentation, including a photograph, has been submitted to KBRC.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 4 on September 7 in Pul (RD); 1 on September 19 at Mad (JWH); 3 on September 25 at Bern (DO); 7 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 1 on October 5 in Dav (MT); 8 on October 20 at Wol and 9 on November 27 at Yah (RD); 33 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH - 1 was first seen on September 26 at Wol (KOS). The last reported date was October 11 (LMc, TS). This is a first occurrence for Kentucky. Documentation, including a photograph, has been submitted to the KBRC.

Brown Creeper - 1 on November 4 at MtZ (RD); 4 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

House Wren - 1 on October 7 at MtZ (RD).

Winter Wren - 1 on September 18 at JMF (DO); 9 on November 27 at BSF (SJS); 1 on November 28 at MtZ (RD).

Sedge Wren - 1 on October 7 at MtZ (RD); 1 on October 17 at SWMA (DO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 5 on October 20 at Wol (RD); 98 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 on October 7 at MtZ (RD); 3 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).

Hermit Thrush - 10 on November 27 at BSF (SJS); 1 on November 21 at Bern (DO)

American Robin - An estimated 7000 on November 11 at a roost in Hts (FR).

European Starling - An estimated 60,000 on November 11 at a roost in Hts (FR).

American Pipits - 5 on October 29 at MCFH (FB); 3 on November 15 at Coe (RD).

Golden-winged Warbler - 1 on September 18 at JMF (DO).

Tennessee Warbler - 8 on September 4 at AWMA (LMc); 4 on September 14 at MtZ (RD); 1 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 4 on October 6 in Dav (MT).

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 on September 18 in Jef (DO); 1 on September 26 at Bel (FR).

- Nashville Warbler** - 1 on September 7 in Pul (RD); 4 on September 21 at MCP (LMc).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** - 2 on September 5 at PWMA (MB); 5 on September 21 at MCP (LMc); 1 on October 1 MtZ (RD); 1 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- Magnolia Warbler** - 5 on September 5 at AWMA (LMc); 5 on September 21 at MCP (LMc); 3 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 1 on October 13 at MtZ (RD).
- Cape May Warbler** - 3 on September 18 and 4 on September 21 at BBSP (LMc).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** - 1 on September 10 in Warn (DR); 1 on September 18 in McCreary Co. (RD).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** - 3 on October 1 at MtZ (RD); 2 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- Blackburnian Warbler** - 1 on September 18 in McCreary Co. (RD).
- Pine Warbler** - 3 on October 2 at Yah (SBC); 1 on October 5 at Mad (JWH); 5 on October 20 at Wol (RD).
- Palm Warbler** - 20 on October 5 at Day (FR).
- Bay-breasted Warbler** - 2 on September 14 at MtZ (RD); 2 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- American Redstart** - 3 on September 18 in McCreary Co. (RD); 10 on September 21 at MCP (LMc); 1 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- Northern Waterthrush** - 1 on September 16 at Fish (RD); 1 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc).
- Mourning Warbler** - 1 on September 21 at MCP (LMc).
- Hooded Warbler** - 6 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- Summer Tanager** - 5 on September 4 at AWMA (LMc); 3 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc).
- Scarlet Tanager** - 3 on September 4 at AWMA (LMc); 5 on September 18 in McCreary Co. (SD).
- Vesper Sparrow** - 2 on October 13 at PWMA (DO); 1 on November 3 at MtZ (RD).
- Lark Sparrow** - 1 on August 6 at Meng Pond, Warn (LD).
- Savannah Sparrow** - 15 on October 5 at Day (FR).
- LeConte's Sparrow** - 1 on October 22 at PWMA, Muhl (DR).
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** - 2 on October 17 at SWMA (DR, KOS, DO).
- Fox Sparrow** - 1 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).
- Lincoln's Sparrow** - 1 on September 18 at BBSP (LMc); 1 on October 2 in Lru (DO); 2 on October 5 at Day (FR); 1 on October 16 at PWMA (RD).
- Swamp Sparrow** - 1 on October 7 at MtZ (RD).
- White-throated Sparrow** - First appeared at Mad on October 8 (JWH); 1 on October 12 at MtZ (RD); 35 on November 27 at BSF (SJS).
- White-crowned Sparrow** - 2 on October 12 at PWMA (DO); 12 on October 5 at Day (FR); 1 on October 12 at MtZ (RD); as many as 10 from November 12-30 in Hart (MS).
- Dark-eyed Junco** - First at Mad on October 12 (JWH); 2 on October 20 at Wol (RD); 21 on 27 November at BSF (SJS).
- Lapland Longspur** - 5 on November 18 at McEl (DR).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - 4 on October 2 at Yah (SBC).
- Blue Grosbeak** - 2 on August 6 at MtZ (RD); 1 on August 7 in Mad (JWH); 2 adults feeding 1 immature on August 20 and 2 adults on September 7 at Fre (FR).
- Dickcissel** - 1 on September 26 in Warn (DR).
- Bobolink** - 1 on October 17 at SWMA (DR).
- Red-winged Blackbird** - Approx. 600 on November 7 at MtZ (RD).
- Rusty Blackbird** - 9 on October 29 at MCFH (FB).
- Common Grackle** - Estimated 5,000 on November 9 at MtZ (RD).
- Purple Finch** - 1 on October 11 at Wol (LMc); 1 on October 30 in Dav (MT); 2 on November 21 at Bern (DO); 1-3 from November 4-30 at MtZ and 3 on November 27 at Yah

(RD).

Red Crossbill - 1 on November 7 in Greenup County (DR); a male on November 19 at ECU (MM).

Pine Siskin - 12+ on October 20 in Boyd Co. (SS); 3 on October 20 at Wol (RD); first observed on October 21 in Dav (MT); 1 on November 9 at Burl (LMc).

Corrections - The Spring, 1999 report recorded five Willets at Kentucky Dam. The correct number was 154 Willets. The Fall 1998 report recorded 2000+ Cattle Egrets in the Lake Barkley area. The number should have been 4000+ Cattle Egrets. In the summer 1999 season the abbreviation Muhl indicates Muhlenberg County, not river. A late date for a Snow Goose on 3 June at Griffin Park, Warren County (DR *et al.*) was omitted. The Red-breasted Merganser on 18 July (DO) should be a Common Merganser. The 13 Ruddy Ducks on 17 July at LBL (Hap, CP) should be Ospreys. The American Golden-Plover was present on June 27, not June 22. The date for 1 Piping Plover at Par should be July 16 and 18, not June. The Greater Yellowlegs at Par was on 6 July, not 16 July. The 3 Least Terns on 18 July (DO) were on the Ohio River near Ledbetter, Livingston County, not Muhlenberg County.

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), Mark Bennett (MB), Hap Chambers (Hap), Roseanna Denton (RD), Lester Doyle (LD), Neil Eklund (NE), Virginia Eklund (VE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Diane Elmore (DE), James W. Hancock (JWH), Mike Hearn (MH), Louis Kornman (LK), Brian Leibacher (BL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mark Monroe (MM), Carl Mowery (CM), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Clell Peterson (CP), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Tom Stephens (TS), Stephen J. Stedman (SJS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Steve Sweeney (SS), Marilee Thompson (MT), Ben Yandell (BY).

--- UPO 1352, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1999-2000

Reports of 27 counts were received from across the state. A total of 128 species was recorded on count days, 118 of which are represented on the table. Those species with only a single bird observed on count days and not represented on the table include: Mute Swan (Richmond), Merlin (Louisville), VIRGINIA RAIL (Paradise), Greater Yellowlegs (Louisville), Franklin's Gull (Land Between the Lakes), EURASIAN-COLLARED DOVE (Calloway County), SAY'S PHOEBE (Olmstead), Gray Catbird (Burlington), Orange-crowned Warbler (Louisville), and a Yellow-headed Blackbird (Otter Creek Park). Interesting finds represented on the table are the Ross's Geese (Calloway County), Northern Saw-whet Owls (Louisville and Warsaw), Marsh Wrens (Paradise), and LeConte's Sparrows (Paradise). No new species were added during the count week. Thirteen species were observed on all counts and 14 species on only one count.

The count period was unusually mild with a range of temperatures from 22°F for a low on 21 December to a high of 65°F on 2 January. Waterfowl numbers were comparable to the numbers of last year with an increase in the numbers of Mallards. Bald Eagle numbers were up over last year, but still were relatively low. The number of Red-breasted Nuthatches was up compared with last year to levels nearing those of two years ago. The number of Cedar Waxwings was higher by far than during the past two years. Purple Finch numbers were up, but still lower than in the past. These comparisons are difficult to interpret given the increased number of counts and observers over the last two years. With the increased number of eyes looking for birds in new locations, more unusual sightings are occurring. I hope this trend continues.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts. In order to be included in the count and considered for state record status, documentation needs to be considered by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) for unusual sightings.

Ballard County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1984.) Habitat as described in 1984. Dec. 21; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 22- to 5°F; wind N 5-10 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 124 (2 on foot, 122 by car). Total species 79; total individuals 10,777

Observers: Mark Bennett, Hap Chambers, Robert Dever, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler).

This count had not been conducted by K.O.S. members since 1987. Appreciation is extended to Charles Wilkins, Area Manager of the Ballard WMA for allowing access to the area for part of the day. Highlights included the four Ross' Geese (all adults) observed with the flock of Snow Geese, the sizable flock of Greater White-fronted Geese, the Least Sandpipers (observed on Mitchell Lake on the WMA), and Kentucky's first CBC Eurasian Collared-Dove (in downtown La Center, Kentucky). Forested areas within the count circle were overrun with American Robins; it is thought that the total for this species is very conservative.

Calloway County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 30% urban and residential, 15% deciduous and pine woods, 35% open fields, 20% lake shore and streams. Dec 31; 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear, sunny; temp. 34 to 58°F; wind 2 to 10 m.p.h.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 31. Total party-miles 163.5 (8.5 on foot, 155 by car). Total species 83; total individuals 4,604.

Observers: Hap Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Charles Mercer, Clell Peterson, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood and Wendell Webb.

Land Between the Lakes (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat as described in 1984 in *American Birds*. Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky a.m., partly cloudy, p.m. cloudy; temp. 37° to 46°F; wind NE, 8 to 10 m.p.h.

Sixteen observers in 5 to 8 parties. Total party-hours 45.5 (20 on foot, 25.5 by car). Total party-miles 178 (10 on foot, 168 by car). Total species 92; total individuals 12,936.

Observers: Don Bennett, Mark Bennett, Richard Cassell, Hap Chambers, Andrea Douglas, Melissa Easley, Lea Gentile, Rick Hokans, Carl Mowery (compiler), Lawrence Philpot, John Pollpeter, Mark Roemer, Darrin Samborski, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, and Paul Yambert.

Sorgho (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection.) Habitat river bottoms, creel bottoms, state and county parks with woods and meadows, and farmland. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast, fog at times; temp. 39° to 61°F; wind 0-3 m.p.h. Unseasonably warm.

Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 24 (9 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 156.5 (10.5 on foot, 146 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 12,025.

Observers: Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Janet Howard (compiler), Bill Little, Brenda Little, Joyce Porter, Roseanne Radzelovage, Susie Tyler, William Tyler, David White and Sharlot White.

Many birds known to be in the area were not found on count day, such as Killdeer and Wild Turkeys. Birds were absent at many feeders, perhaps due to the warm weather.

Yelvington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of Hwy. 405 and 662). Habitat: Ohio River bottoms, Carpenter's and Kingfisher Lakes, Yellow Creek Park, Game and Fish Farm and environs. Also the feeders of the Powell's and Jones'. Dec. 18; 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 35°F to 40°F; wind 3-5 m.p.h.

Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 22 (5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 94 (7 on foot, 87 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 7,116+.

Observers: Chuck Davis, Sharon Davis, Brenda Eaden, Joe Ford, Brenda Jones, Jody Jones, Bill Little, Brenda Little Charles Morris, Laura Morris, Joyce Porter, A.L. Powell (compiler), Roseann Radzelovage and Bill Tyler.

Additional comments: The large number of doves is worthy of note. The telephone wires and corn fields were covered with doves. The number shown is a crude estimate. The same can be said about the Common Grackles. Most of our observations were done from the car. Mr. Davis covered the lakes and creek bottoms on foot.

Olmstead (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 28; 6:45 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Sky clear with scattered cirrus clouds; temp. 24°F to 39°F; wind SW, 10-20 m.p.h. The day began with NW winds and overcast sky, but quickly changed to SW winds with a clear sky by about 7:30 a.m.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16.05 (9.00 on foot, 7.05 by car). Total party-miles 85.5 (4.5 on foot, 81.0 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 2,803.

Observers: Mark Bennett (compiler), Alyson Lyne, Frank Lyne, and David Roemer.

Additional comments: High winds kept most birds "hunkered down" resulting in low individual numbers. Additionally winds made hearing and locating birds difficult. The drought of 1999 had depleted many water sources and strained or reduced others. Count highlights were as follows: Kentucky's second record of Say's Phoebe, five Sandhill Cranes, 29 Lapland Longspurs, one Chipping Sparrow and 570 Horned Larks.

Paradise (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Jan 2; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 55° to 64°F; wind SW-WSW, 10-25 m.p.h. Water open.

Twenty one observers in 8 parties, plus one feeder watcher. Total party-hours 62.5 (39 on foot, 23.5 by car). Total party-miles 322 (31.5 on foot, 209.5 by car). Hours owling 2.5. Total species 90; total individuals 11,457.

Observers: Jamie Baker, Jennifer Bottom, Rhonda Bryant, Hap Chambers, Beth Creighton, Robert Dever, Shari Forsythe, Logan Kistler, Steve Kistler, Daniel Marsh, Scott Marsh, Darren O'Brien, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Robert Rold, Wanda Shotwell, Chirs Sloan, Shannon Sloan, Ed Toone, Major Waltman, Eric Williams, Ben Yandell and Jonathan Young.

The large number of participants (22) was a high for this count. Predicted rain held off until after dark, but the strong winds hampered the detection of owls prior to dawn and songbirds throughout the remainder of the day. The warm, windy evening also accounted in large part for the scarcity of Short-eared Owls; in fact all five that were found were flushed during the day -- *none* were observed feeding at dusk. The species total (90) was down from the record high of 95 recorded in 1999. The lower total was mostly due to lower waterfowl diversity (only 12 species as compared with 17 in 1999). The counts most interesting species were all observed in a single marshy area on the Sinclair Unit of the Peabody WMA in Muhlenberg County. A Virginia Rail, a Marsh Wren, and five LeConte's Sparrows were all observed on the day before the count and relocated on the day of the count. The Virginia Rail was flushed briefly and also responded to a tape of its call. A second Marsh Wren was observed in a large patch of reeds on the WMA's Homestead Unit in southern Ohio County. Other highlights included a sub-adult Bald Eagle, an immature Golden Eagle, observed on the Gibraltar Unit of the WMA (a count first), a flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes, seven Least Sandpipers on the Paradise Steam Plant ash pond, two Pine Warblers in Ohio County, and two Chipping Sparrows, closely studied by members of three parties on the Ken Unit in Ohio County.

Bowling Green (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy with light rain in the a.m. to partly clear in the p.m.; temp. 40° to 52°F; wind SW 4-8 m.p.h.

Six observers in 1-3 parties. Total party-hours 20.5 (2 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party-miles 119.5 (4.5 on foot, 115 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 8,853.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Dick Lord, Wayne Mason, David Roemer and Neil Shields.

Mammoth Cave National Park (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 29° to 28°F; wind calm.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19 (4 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 104 (9 on foot, 95 by car). Total species 37 total individuals 1,266.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Elizabeth Ferrell, Dick Lord, and Wayne Mason.

Notably absent were Waterfowl, Wild Turkeys and Bald Eagles.

Glasgow (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky partly cloudy in the early a.m. to clear; temp. 24° to 39°F; wind NW 0-5 m.p.h.

Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 16 (5.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party-miles 85.5 (9.5 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 5,808.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Billie Mae Moore, and Emma Jean Pitcock.

The count took place on the first favorable day following several days of below freezing temperatures. Damp weather proved to be instrumental in bird movement for this count. The species and individual totals are among the highest in the history of the Glasgow count. Waterfowl numbers and diversity were largely responsible for this --- 14 of 22 species of duck on the state's checklist were observed. Many thanks to the contingency of feeder watchers who contributed to this count; their results were a significant contribution in the final analysis.

Falls of Rough (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek, Kentucky at the intersection of Highway 79 and Highway 54.) Habitat woodland, Rough River,

Rough River Lake, Rough River State Park, river bottoms, streams, watershed lake, cultivated fields, old fields and yard feeders. Dec. 26; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky sunny all day; temp. 27° to 39°F; wind, extremely windy in open field areas.

Bernheim Forest (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 26; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 28° to 40°F; wind SW, 10-20 m.p.h. Water mostly frozen.

Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 38.5 (15.5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles 345 (9 on foot, 336 by car). Total species 69; total individuals 4,554.

Observers: Michael Autin, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Dona Coates, Jerry Coomes, Bonnie Dever, Robert Dever, Jackie Elmore, Brian Klapheke, Robert Klapheke, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, and Matt Stickel.

The breezy conditions made the detection of songbirds difficult. Berry-eating species were present in above-average numbers. Highlights included the near-adult Bald Eagle and the two Golden Eagles (1 adult, 1 immature), all of which were observed in the Forest's rugged, southern portion along Wilson Creek. From about 3:30-5:30 p.m. EST, a very large flight of Sandhill Cranes passed overhead. Approximately a dozen loose groups of 100-300 birds were observed flying southward during the period with the total of 2,150 considered to be a conservative estimate.

Louisville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 19; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 28° to 46°F; wind N, 3 m.p.h. Light rain intermittent.

Thirty one observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 93.75 (49.25 on foot, 44.50 by car). Total party-miles 457.05 (33.75 on foot, 423.30 by car). Total species 90; total individuals 18,151.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Rick Ahrens, Win Ahrens, Michael Auten, Jamie Baker, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (compilers), Dona Coates, Bo Fender, Jane Fender, Chuck Hatten, Cheryl Jones, Bryan Klapheke, Tracy Lewandowski, Fred Mansmith, Burt Monroe III, Mark Monroe, Doxie Noonan, Peggy Oates, Darrin O'Brien, Clara Ann Pallares, David Pallares, Bill Parsley, Mary Ann Parsley, Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Carol Stallard, Thomas Stover, Edwin Toone, Major Waltman, and Beckham Bird Club and friends.

This count topped last year's total by two species. The day was cloudy with intermittent showers and warm temperatures. Several unusual species were located notably a Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon. A Greater Yellowlegs and an Orange-crowned Warbler were unexpected finds having lingered longer than usual before heading south. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard in the evening, a fitting conclusion to another successful count.

Shelbyville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 26° to 61°F; wind SW, 15-20 m.p.h. Heavy fog made visibility extremely poor until after 10:00 a.m.

Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 26 (2.5 on foot, 23.5 by car). Total party-miles 235 (2 on foot, 233 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 2,408.

Observers: Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Todd Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), Heather Crouch, Cathy King, and Benton Young.

A beautiful day that was unusually warm. Heavy fog until 10:00 a.m. and ice hampered seeing waterfowl. Several birds were seen chasing insects which helped reduce birds congregating around seed producing areas.

Frankfort (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.)

[illegible]

COMMON MERGANSER	7	4	14	21
RED-BR. MERGANSER	7	2	32	9
RUDDY DUCK	12	3	14	135
BALD EAGLE	4	1	1	42
NORTHERN HARRIER	1	1	1	78
SHARP-SH. HAWK	1	1	1	39
COOPER'S HAWK	1	1	1	49
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	1	12	4	53
RED-TAILED HAWK	23	9	8	498
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK				13
GOLDEN EAGLE				3
AMERICAN KESTREL	18	16	5	678
PEREGRINE FALCON	25	*	40	3
WILD TURKEY	1	1	1	36
NORTHERN BOBWHITE	5	200	698	1473
AMERICAN COOT				2236
SANDHILL CRANE	25	124	903	1410
KILLDEER		6	15	21
DUNLIN	12	26	41	86
LEAST SANDPIPER	9	4	5	83
COMMON SNIFE	225	472	1	1021
BONAPARTE'S GULL	28	1775	880	4339
RING-BILLED GULL	1	6	65	85
HERRING GULL				4
FORSTER'S TERN	45	130	309	14809
ROCK DOVE	26	23	29	68074
MOURNING DOVE	1	1	1	20
E. SCREECH OWL	2	1	4	43
GREAT HORNED OWL	1	1	1	17
BARRED OWL				15
SHORT-EARED OWL				2
N. SAW-WHET OWL	2	4	9	150
BELTED KINGFISHER	26	3	49	127
RED-H. WOODPECKER	20	23	22	650
RED-B. WOODPECKER	3	5	3	45
YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER	17	7	26	1
DOWNY WOODPECKER				

[illegible]

Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 18; 7:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 29° to 40°F; wind NNE, 0-6 m.p.h.

Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 20.25 (3.25 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 131 (4 on foot, 127 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 2,024.

Observers: Kathryn Clay, Rebecca Foreman, Mary Harrel, Bill Little, Brenda Little, Joyce Porter (compiler), Roseann Radzelovage, and Doralee St. Clair.

Wind conditions affected the number of birds sighted; they were found in sheltered areas. Still have a vulture roost at Kathryn Clay's.

Hart County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center corner of Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat wooded and agricultural, 100 acre pond, and traversed by the Green River. Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy, then clearing; temp. 25° to 48°F; wind gusty light.

Seven observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10.5 (5.5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 144 (4 on foot, 140 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 3,000.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, John Brittain, Carol Friedman, Janet Kistler, Steven Kistler (compiler), Mitch Sturgeon, and Randy Sullivan.

High points included 27 Red-tailed Hawks, 30 American Kestrels, and 90 Eastern Bluebirds.

Green River (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat as described in 1998. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 30° to 50°F; wind 5-20 m.p.h.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19 (10 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 104.5 (8.25 on foot, 96.25 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 5,825.

Observers: Richard Cassell, Lloyd Curry (compiler), Steve Dalton, Roseanna Denton, Richard Kessler, Arlene Morton, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Gusty winds pused many waterfowl to protected areas. An unusually large roost of Black Vultures was observed near Greensburg.

Otter Creek Park (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat 38% farmland, 20% park area, 15% brushy fields, 13% woodland, and 14% ponds, creeks, lake and river. Dec. 31; 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 34° to 58°F; wind 0 m.p.h.

Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 14 (5 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 141 (5 on foot, 136 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 2,385.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Richard Cassell, Robert Dever (compiler) and Brainard Plamer-Ball, Jr.

Highlights were 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird (female) and 31 Sandhill Cranes. Low count due in part to small number of observers.

Sixteen observers in 8 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours 48 (23 on foot, 25 by car). Total party-miles 199.5 (16 on foot, 183.5 by car). Two of the observers spent 12 hours at feeders. Total species 52; total individuals 4,616.

Observers: Robin Antenucci, Jim Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Suzanne Doerrfeld, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (Compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Jeff Jones, Greg Kocher, Rob Laurenson, Susan Laurenson, Greg Pond, and Tim Williams.

The following food was in good supply: wild grape, bush honeysuckle, hedge plant, hackberry, rose hips, Japanese honeysuckle, bradford pear, and bittersweet.

Kleber Wildlife Management Area (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1977.) Habitat as described in 1977. Jan. 2; 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 48° to 65°F; wind SSE, 0-36 m.p.h.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 12.5 (5.5 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 88 (3 on foot, 85 by car). Total species 38; total individuals 1,105.

Observers: Peggy Gould (compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, and Scott Hankla.

Danville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat as described before. Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 32° to 49°F; wind nil.

Thirty one observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 54.5 (13 on foot, 41.5 by car). Total party-miles 439 (11 on foot, 428 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 5,559.

Observers: Joe Amburgey, Leah Anderson, Robert Anderson, Becky Barrick, Andre Brousseau, Bill Catron, Shirley Catron, Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Martha Foster, Bill Garriott, Tim Gilbert, Bruce Gordon, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Mrs. West Hill, Marilyn Houchin, Misty Hurt, J.W. Kemper, Anne Ledford, Tori Morris, Jack Newton, Don Pelly, Erin Pelly, Rob Pendency, Herb Petitjean, James Ramsey, Lee Russell, Ralph Schiefferle, Joan Smith, and Ashleigh Wilson.

Nine high school students from Advanced Placement Environmental Science class at Boyle County High School participated.

Lexington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church on Bates Creek Road.) Habitat mixed residential and farmland. Dec. 18; 6:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky partly clear; temp. 42° to 48°F. Total species 68; total individuals 7,003.

Twenty six. Total party-hours 66. Total party-miles 641 by car).

Observers: Earl Boggs, Rose Canon, Phyllis Deal, Doris Ferm, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, Jonathon Glixson, Carol Goes, John Jackson, Allen Kingsland, Teri Koontz, Betty Maxson, Bob McNeese, Gage Morgan, Mark Morgan, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Kay Neikirk, Glenn Ralieggh, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Lew Shain, Chuck Susie, Marie Sutton, Andy Uterhart, Jim Williams, and Bernice Wood.

Burlington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. Jan. 2; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 31° to 58°F; wind S, 0-8 m.p.h. Most lakes and ponds frozen.

Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 36 (20 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 144 (10 on foot, 134 by car). Total species 67; total individuals 4,100.

Observers: Linda Altevers, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Kevin Flowers, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Gayle Pille, Carmen Schulte, and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers: Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

Great Horned Owls were unusually vocal during early morning hours. The Gray Catbird was found by Carmen Schulte along Setters Road.

Warsaw (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sky cloudy, overcast; temp. 30° to 37°F; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Water open.

Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 33 (7 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 168 (6 on foot, 162 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 4,482.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Kevin Flowers, Ed Groneman, Frank Lewandowski, Lee McNeely (compiler), Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Tommy Stephens.

The Prairie Warbler was found in Warsaw during late morning and observed later by most of the participants. The Peregrine Falcons were seen at the Ghent Power Plant, a recent hacking site. Also found at the same location were the large number of vultures and the Short-eared Owls. The Northern Saw-whet Owl was identified by sound by Mark Monroe.

Falmouth (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Caddo, Kentucky.) Habitat 50% woodland and forest edge, 25% river and lake shoreline, 20% agricultural, and 5% residential. Dec. 26; 9:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky partly sunny; temp. 29° to 36°F; wind NW, 12-22 m.p.h.

Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 8.5 (6 on foot, 2.5 by car). Total party-miles 27 (1 on foot, 26 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 1,158.

Observers: Lee McNeely (compiler) and Tommy Stephens.

Limited coverage contributed to low numbers and species total.

Richmond (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 0.75 miles north of intersection of Bobtown Road and the Kingston-Berea Road.) Habitat Fencerows and roadsides (35%), woodland (20%), pasture and open fields (35%), lawns (9%), lakes and ponds (1%). Dec. 28; 7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 27° to 31°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Occasional snow flurries.

Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 13 (5.5 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party-miles 197 (5 on foot, 192 by car). Total species 54; total individuals 3,491.

Observers: Jay Bicknell, Scott Harp, Brandon Ritchison, Gary Ritchison (compiler), and Mark Zody.

Somerset (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Bypass E. 80 and Highway 39, Crab Orchard Road.) Habitat 21% water edge, 13% cultivated, 24% wooded and edge, 11% urban, and 31% field/fence. Jan. 1; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy, light rain; temp. 42°F to 62°F; wind SSW, 0-10 m.p.h.

Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 57.5 (22 on foot, 35.5 by car). Total party-miles 416.5 (12.5 on foot, 404 by car). Total species 78; total individuals 11,734.

Observers: Judy Brant, Ray Cornett, Granville Cox, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Joyce Fry, Carolyn Gay Hodges, Mary Kissel, Linda McClendon, Arlene Morton, Connie Neeley, Wendell Neeley, Lynda Perry, Jim York, and Margaret York. In addition, there were 12 feeder watchers: Jack Brant, Hazel Brown, Aloris Dale, Julie Denton, Grace Floyd, Evelyn Garrett, Ruth Hieronymus, Jim Hodges, Susan Hoffman, Eileen Hurst, Peggy Morrison, and Mary Moss.

Perry County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Farmhouse, Spencer farm.) Habitat woodland, and edge. Jan. 2; 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sky clear; wind 10-15. Unusually warm and windy.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 12. Total party-miles 40 (1 on foot, 39 by car). Total species 24; total individuals 184.

Observer: Dennis Sandlin and Don Spencer (Compiler).

Wild Turkeys are on the increase. Northern Bobwhite, Barn Owls, and Great Horned Owls seem to be low in number.

FIELD NOTES

RED PHALAROPE AT JONATHAN CREEK, MARSHALL COUNTY

A Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) was observed October 17, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. on the mud flat at Pirates Cove on Jonathan Creek embayment of Kentucky Lake in Marshall County by Robert and Bonnie Dever and Hap Chambers. The phalarope was feeding and swimming with a group of Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) and Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*). The phalarope was easily identified by its behavior. The observers were approximately 50 yards from the bird. Upon careful observation through two Kowa scopes, the bird was identified as a Red Phalarope. It was pale gray with a black ear patch. A white wing stripe was seen during its brief flight. The bill was short, straight, and thick with a blunt tip. The legs were an olive, grayish color. It was a sunny warm day and the bird was very cooperative.

On Sunday morning October 18, David Roemer, Mike Miller, and Hap Chambers again observed this bird. It had moved to the water on the mud flat at Jonathan Creek below the embankment off Highway 80. It was a rainy, cooler morning. David filmed the bird with a video camera. The paler color on the base of the bill was seen during Sunday's viewing.

On Monday October 19, a search for the bird was unsuccessful; it had obviously moved on. This was the first positive identification of the Red Phalarope in Kentucky since November 1978 at the Falls of the Ohio. --- HAP CHAMBERS, 33 Wildwood Drive, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

SPOTTED SANDPIPERS NESTING IN HENDERSON COUNTY

The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) is considered a rare and sporadic nesting bird in Kentucky, and is listed by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission as endangered as a breeding bird (*Trans. Ky. Acad. Sci.* 57:69-91, 1996). The species nests on a somewhat regular basis only at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County, where most recently a pair was found with downy young in July 1999 (R. Dever, pers. comm.). There are only two additional confirmed records for nesting, that being from the State Game Farm in Franklin County in 1954 (Despard, *The Kentucky Warbler* 30:62-63, 1954) and from an abandoned quarry lake in Fayette County in 1995 (Helton, *The Kentucky Warbler* 75:74, 1999). Otherwise, evidence of nesting has been anecdotal, at best, and most references pertain to the observation of seemingly territorial birds at a few scattered localities across the western two-thirds of the state (Palmer-Ball, *Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas*, 1996, p. 82).

On 26 May 1999, I observed two Spotted Sandpipers along the margin of an extensive sandbar in the Ohio River near the Kentucky shore, immediately below Newburgh Dam, Henderson County. These birds were calling as if territorial, and they periodically engaged in antagonistic behavior towards one another as if defending territories. I returned to this site on 14 July 1999 and found that there appeared to be at least three pairs of Spotted Sandpipers present. One pair was attending to two downy chicks, and a second was attending to at least one chick. Both of these pairs were on the Kentucky side of the sandbar. A third pair was present on the outside of the bar facing midstream. These birds also were acting defensive, but no additional young could be found amidst the relatively thick growth of vegetation.

The sandbar was approximately 25 acres in size and had little or no vegetation along and near its sandy shorelines, but higher up there was a profuse growth of herbaceous annuals

and young willow trees. This vegetation apparently suited the Spotted Sandpipers well for nesting. However, the sandbar was attached to the Kentucky shore at its downstream end, allowing access by humans, especially on ATV's, and potential predators such as coyotes (*Canis latrans*). For this reason, it was considered very fortunate that successful nesting had occurred. As noted above, this represents the fourth location for confirmed breeding of Spotted Sandpipers in Kentucky.--**BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.**, Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF GREEN VIOLET-EAR

On August 25, 1999, I received a phone call from William Angel describing an unusual hummingbird he had observed in his Taylor Mill, Kentucky yard in Kenton County. The bird had first been seen that afternoon visiting feeders around the house. Based on his description, it was apparent this bird was not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Later that afternoon I went to Mr. Angel's home and was able to briefly observe the bird when it made a short appearance in his yard. While unable to confirm identification, I was confident that this was not any of the regularly occurring North American hummingbird species. Mr. Angel had earlier made a videotape of the bird visiting his feeders. After the observation and review of the video, I suspected that this might be a Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*).

When Mr. Angel confirmed that the bird was still present on the following morning, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. and the author returned to the site. By late morning, several excellent observations were made during the Green Violet-ear's occasional visits to the yard, confirming its identity. Both the Kentucky and Cincinnati rare bird alerts were notified, and numerous observers were able to see the bird on August 26. Unfortunately, the Green Violet-ear was last seen early on the morning of August 27, disappointing many birders who arrived later that day. Nearly 200 people visited the Angel home during 26 and 27 August, some from as far away as Canada, Virginia, and Alabama.

The Green Violet-ear was noticeably larger than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Its bill was dark in color, of moderate length and slightly decurved. Crown color was a dull, iridescent green. A dark purplish-blue patch was present through the eye, turning slightly downward behind the eye. A small whitish spot was sometimes visible behind the eye. The upperparts were iridescent green extending to and including the rump. Wings were a dull brownish color. The underparts were also iridescent green extending to the belly. A brighter, bluish coloration was visible on the throat feathers in good light. The tail was darkish gray, broad in appearance and not notched. A subterminal band mentioned in some field guides was not particularly evident, though a lighter terminal band was occasionally seen. Belly feathers and undertail coverts were dull buff and leg color was dark gray.

Over the course of its three day stay, the Green Violet-ear was most often seen as it visited hummingbird feeders in the Angel yard. The majority of these visits were short in duration and occurred approximately at half-hour intervals. The bird would regularly perch in bushes and trees around the yard when not actively feeding. Occasionally it would aggressively interact with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. It was not determined where the bird would go when it departed the yard between visits. The Green Violet-ear was quite vocal much of the time, with a loud, low-pitched ticking most often heard. A longer, more musical series of twittering notes was sometimes heard when the bird was perched.

The Green Violet-ear is a resident from central Mexico south to Bolivia. There are approximately 40 records of this species from North America. A large majority of these records have been from Texas, and most have occurred since 1990. Some pattern of vagrancy has occurred in recent years, with records from North Carolina, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The Kentucky sighting came a few days after Hurricane Brett had struck the Texas coast, a possible explanation for this remarkable sighting. A copy of the video, photographs taken by Robert Dever and Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., and written documentation have been submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee for review. A special thanks goes out to Mr. and Mrs. William Angel, who not only first located the Green Violet-ear, but also welcomed the large number of visitors who came to their home hoping to see this rare visitor. ---**LEE MCNEELY**, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Ky. 41005.

TUNDRA SWAN

On 10 January 1999, eight Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) were located in the back cove of Blood River, Calloway County, Kentucky by Hap Chambers. Three of the swans were immature and five were adults. They were feeding and swimming with 65 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Bob and Nita Head, Tommy Sherwood and Sally Leedom also observed the birds. They were viewed through a Kowa scope from the far shore, a distance of approximately 500 yards. It was not possible to get closer due to thin ice. The Swans were observed again on Monday morning, 11 January, by David Roemer, Mark Bennett, Joe Tom Erwin and Hap Chambers. On the latter date only 7 birds were present, two immatures and five adults. The birds were gone on Wednesday, 1 January 1999.---**HAP CHAMBERS**, 33 Wildwood Drive, Murray, Kentucky 42701.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ray and Cathy Harm Web Site

Ray Harm wanted to make KOS members aware of the remaining prints available. Members are encouraged to visit the web site prepared by Cathy at <http://personal.riverusers.com/~harm>.

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

NEW NUMBER -- The new number for the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline is (502)-326-0878. Please report any unusual sightings in order to provide others with the opportunity to see rare birds.

Correction to By-law Changes

Changes to the KOS by-laws concerning affiliates ratified by the membership in October 1999 and published in the November issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* contained an error. The published version stated that affiliate clubs were entitled to a seat on the KOS board if their membership included 10 KOS members. Membership of affiliate clubs of the Ken

Kentucky Ornithological Society must include 15 KOS members (not 10) to qualify for a seat on the KOS Board.

K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund

Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500) to assist them in conducting research on birds in Kentucky should contact the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (email: blaine.ferrell@wku.edu) for a set of guidelines and an application form.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings and birds observed out of season should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005, for consideration by the committee for official state record status.

Corrigendum:

In *The Ky Warbler* 74:76, the author of the field note on Barn Owls on Little Black Mountain in Harlan County should be Michael J. Lacki.